

IN PRAISE OF THE PAYROLL PROFESSIONAL DURING NATIONAL PAYROLL WEEK (SEPTEMBER 14-18)

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to some of the unsung heroes in the child support enforcement process. The welfare reform bill we passed just 2 years ago took strong steps to ensure that all single parents receive child support payments. Providing child support officials with the tools they need to locate parents who owe child support was key to this effort.

The most important tool was information employers were required to report on every person they hire. These new hire reports are used to locate parents anywhere in this country and then to establish an order or enforce an existing order.

With new hire reporting, State child support enforcement agencies have the ability to issue income withholding orders much more quickly. None of this would be possible without the cooperation of employers, and specifically the payroll professionals who bear the major responsibility for this new hire reporting.

Payroll professionals are also responsible for withholding wages from paychecks and sending the money to custodial parents and children. The funds they withhold from workers amounts to more than half of the \$13 billion in child support payments made nationally each year.

Few public policies are more important than child support, and no group is more important in this issue than employers in general and payroll professionals in particular. I wholeheartedly commend them.

AMERICA'S WORKERS ARE SICK AND TIRED OF FAST TRACK

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, American workers are sick and tired of fast track. Take today's fast track, for example, another fast track that will send more American factories, more American investment, and more American jobs overseas, this time to Central America.

In return, America will get two used Ford pick-up trucks, another 50 tons of heroin and cocaine, and three baseball players, to be named later. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. Washington does not need more lobbyists and lawyers to advise Congress. I honestly believe that a proctologist is in order down here. I yield back whatever common sense is left.

MEMBERS MUST DEFEND THE RULE OF LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this great country is struggling to find its way through the darkness of cynicism, distrust, and divisiveness, because this body and this administration tend to demagogue, to speak against others when we do not agree with them or their ideas or their philosophies.

We must realize that the foundation of this very government was based upon a rule of law and not a rule of man, a moral direction for a new country, and most importantly, a Constitution.

This foundation is what makes America so great, so strong. All men are created equal, and no man is above the law. Our Founding Fathers made the tough decisions on governance, on principle, on what was right and wrong, not on opinion polls and conjecture.

When we address the circumstances beset upon this President, we must remember that we are all bound by the Constitution, by the stable and forthright direction of our Founding Fathers.

The duty before us is an onerous one that requires each of us to summon the courage and the means to defend the rule of law, and to stand up and recapture the constitutional intent of James Madison.

SAVING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is one of our very successful programs here in the United States. It has well served more than 160 million workers and their families for nearly 60 years. But recently the majority leadership has put together a hasty proposal to spend a portion of our budget surplus on tax cuts, rather than invest it in the Social Security system.

I am a very strong supporter of needed tax relief for our families, but Mr. Speaker, robbing the Social Security system to pay for tax cuts would make it more difficult and painful, and in fact impossible, to deal with the serious problems facing our Social Security system. Spending the surplus now will suck security right out of the system.

We have a responsibility to future generations. Our responsibility is to ensure that our parents, our children, and their children have the base security of Social Security.

AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE TAXPAYERS THE FIRST BACK-TO-BACK TAX CUTS IN MODERN HISTORY

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, so many of our colleagues are for tax cuts in the abstract, until there is money to actually give some relief to working families.

This week we have to deal with reality what can be a defining moment in the history of this Congress. We have an opportunity to give American taxpayers the first back-to-back tax cuts in modern history.

Last year we had the first tax cuts in 16 years, and revenue increased as the Federal Government encouraged work and productivity. We have the unique opportunity for the second time in 2 years to let hardworking families keep more of their money.

It is unreasonable to spend the surplus on more government when American families are forced to spend 40 percent of their income on taxes. This plan has a win-win-win formula. It ensures the future of Social Security with \$1.4 trillion. It simplifies the tax filing system. We begin the process of eliminating the marriage penalty, that currently forces 21 million couples to pay an average of \$1,400 a year in extra Federal taxes because they are married.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford not to do a tax cut and give tax relief to working families this year.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about values today, but we need to remember that every day the actions we take on the floor of this House say a lot to the American people about what our values really are.

So I will be proud to cast another vote for the Democratic plan to reserve the budget surplus, whose ink has not even dried yet, to save Social Security, and against the Republican plan to use the Social Security surplus to pay for tax cuts, because I value our senior citizens. I value the years of work they dedicated to raising our families, to building this Nation, and to defending our freedom. I will fight to make sure the benefits they deserve, the benefits they paid for, are there when they retire.

So when Members come to the floor to vote, they will have a clear choice of values: the value of playing election year politics with Social Security and the fiscal stability of this country, or the value of doing right by our senior citizens.